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NSC BRIEFING

23 August 1960

IRAN

- I. Shah regime's open rigging of current parliamentary elections (began early August; now nearly complete) will almost certainly weaken the regime.
- A. Shah, although publicly promising free elections, has used government apparatus to assure that the pro-government party of Premier Eqbal wins.
- B. Opposition to election manipulations has led to some open clashes in the provinces, and in one incident last week about 150 persons reportedly were injured when fired on by security forces.
- C. Security forces appear capable of controlling demonstrations, but riots could develop as they did in South Korea last April if disaffection spreads to army or police.

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